[Mr. KottalilP· Abrahrm.]

(*c*) the monthly average number of in-patients there from Chingam 1114 to Edavam 1114 (both months inclusive);

(*d*) where and in what manner the in-patients whose number exceed the number of beds provided are accommodated in the hospital;

(*e*) whether there is convenient space in the hospital compound for constructing additional sheds or wards for in-patients;

(*f*) whether the congestion due to overcrowding of in-patients was brought to the notice of the Government by any of the hospital authorities; and

(*g*) what remedial measures, if any, are the Government undertaking to avoid the congestion in the said hospital?

VAIDYASASTRAKUSALA MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: (*a*) 46 beds.

(*b*) 77 patients.

(*c*) 63.

(*d*) They are accommodated on the floor between beds wherever there is space and on the verandahs.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The matter is under consideration.

Cardamom Pests.

423. ❋ **MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH** (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether serious damage is being done to cardamoms in the Cardamom Hills by insect pests;

(*b*) if so, what measures have been taken by the Government to remedy the situation;

(*c*) whether the Agricultural Department has recommended Nicotine spraying as a measure against this disease;

(*d*) whether Nicotine Sulphate is subjected to import duty in Travancore; and

(*e*) if so, what is the amount of the duty?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Assistant Entomologist was directed to visit the affected areas and to demonstrate remedial measures. He toured the Cardamom Estates for a period of six weeks from 23rd Thulam 1113 and for another period of about two weeks from 31-8-1114, camped at many estates and conducted demonstration of spraying the affected crop.

(*c*) Spraying with tobacco waste decoction is the cheapest and the most effective method recommended by the Department. Nicotine spraying is also good. But it is more costly than tobacco waste.

(*d*) Nicotine sulphate is subject to import duty when it is imported direct from foreign countries through the Sea Customs Houses.

(*e*) Duty at the rate of 30 per cent Advalorem (Standard) and 20 per cent Advalorem preferential.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR: With reference to part (c), may I ask whether the spraying of tobacco decoction acts as a complete check of the pest?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That controls pests to a very large extent.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR: Are there many plantations now which are free from this pest.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: There are some.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR: May I ask why some other remedy could not be found out?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: When a pest breaks out, the best way to bring it under control is to spray an insecticide which will eradicate it. Tobacco decoctions is formed very effective in checking the ravages of this particular pest *viz*, thrips.

Female Education.

424. * **SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA** (*Nominated*): With reference to the present arrangement under which female education in the State, except the primary branch, is under the control and guidance of a separate Inspectress of Girls' Schools assisted by an Assistant Inspectress, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Malayalam and Tamil Middle Schools, and High Schools, for girls are proposed to be taken out of the purview of the Chief Inspectress and Assistant Inspectress;

(*b*) if so, the reasons that weighed with the Government in proposing to effect such a change;

(*c*) whether the Statham Committee has made any recommendation for the introduction of such an arrangement; and

(*d*) whether the Government have considered that the purpose of efficient inspection will be effected by the change contemplated?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) Malayalam and Tamil Middle Schools for Girls are proposed to be taken over from the control of the Inspectress of Girls' Schools and the Assistant Inspectress of Girls' Schools.

(*b*) For ensuring efficient inspection and control.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA: May I know the circumstances under which Government thought it desirable to introduce the present arrangement?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: It was a transition stage, and that stage is now over.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ആൺ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ പെൺകുട്ടികളെ ചേർക്കുന്നതെന്ന നിർബന്ധമുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: ചിലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ രക്ഷകർത്താക്കന്മാരുടെ അപേക്ഷപ്രകാരം അങ്ങനെയൊരു നിർബന്ധം വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA: With reference to part (b); am I to take it that the inspection now going on is efficient?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: I am sorry to have to say it is not.

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